

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A skin care composition comprising:
 - a) an N-acyl amino acid compound selected from the group consisting of N-acyl amino acid, its isomers, its salts, and derivatives thereof;
 - b) a safe and effective amount of a skin care active selected from the group consisting of sugar amine, vitamin B₃, retinoids, peptides, phytosterol, dialkanoyl hydroxyproline, hexamidine, salicylic acid and their derivatives, and combinations thereof; and
 - c) a dermatologically acceptable carrier for the N-acyl amino acid and the skin care active.
2. The skin care composition of Claim 1 wherein said composition comprises from about 0.0001% to about 25%, by weight, of the N-acyl amino acid compound.
3. The skin care composition of Claim 1 wherein said N-acyl amino acid is selected from the group consisting of N-acyl phenylalanine, N-acyl tyrosine, their isomers, their salts, and derivatives thereof.
4. The skin care composition of Claim 3 where said N-acyl phenylalanine is N-undecylenoyl-L-phenylalanine.
5. The skin care composition of Claim 1 wherein said skin care active is vitamin B₃.
6. The skin care composition of Claim 5 wherein said vitamin B₃ skin care active is niacinamide.
7. The skin care composition of Claim 1 wherein said N-acyl amino acid compound is N-undecylenoyl-L-phenylalanine present in an amount of from about 0.02-2.5%, by weight of the composition, and said skin care active is niacinamide present in an amount of from about 2% to about 5%, by weight of the composition.
8. The skin care composition of Claim 1 further comprising from about 0.001% to about 10%, by weight, of an additional component selected from the group consisting of desquamatory actives, anti-acne actives, wrinkle repair actives, anti-oxidants, radical scavengers, chelators, flavonoids, anti-inflammatory agents, anti-cellulite agents, tanning

actives, skin lightening agents, antimicrobial actives, antifungal actives, sunscreen actives, conditioning agents, thickening agents, water soluble vitamins, particulate material, topical anesthetics, and combinations thereof.

9. The skin care composition of Claim 1 wherein said composition is an emulsion.
10. The skin care composition of Claim 9 wherein the emulsion is selected from the group consisting of water-in-oil emulsions, oil-in-water emulsions, and combinations thereof.
11. A method of regulating the condition of mammalian keratinous tissue, said method comprising the step of topically applying to the skin of a mammal in need of such treatment the composition of Claim 1.
12. A method of preventing, retarding, and/or treating uneven skin tone of a mammal, said method comprising the step of topically applying to the skin of a mammal needing such treatment the composition of Claim 1.
13. A method of acting as a lightening or pigmentation reduction cosmetic agent said method comprising the step of topically applying to the skin of a mammal needing such treatment the composition of Claim 1.
14. A method of thickening the skin and/or preventing, retarding, and/or treating skin atrophy of a mammal, said method comprising the step of topically applying to the skin of a mammal needing such treatment the composition of Claim 1.
15. A method of preventing, retarding, and/or treating the appearance of spider vessels and/or red blotchiness on mammalian skin, said method comprising the step of topically applying to the skin of a mammal needing such treatment the composition of Claim 1.
16. A method of preventing, retarding, and/or treating the appearance of dark, under-eye circles and/or puffy eyes, said method comprising the step of topically applying to the skin of a mammal in need of such treatment the composition of Claim 1.

17. A method of preventing, retarding, and/or treating sallowness of mammalian skin, said method comprising the step of topically applying to the skin of a mammal in need of such treatment the composition of Claim 1.
18. A method of preventing and/or retarding tanning of mammalian skin, said method comprising the step of topically applying to the skin of a mammal in need of such treatment the composition of Claim 1.
19. A method of desquamating, exfoliating, and/or increasing turnover in mammalian skin, said method comprising the step of topically applying to the skin of a mammal in need of such treatment the composition of Claim 1.
20. A method of regulating and/or reducing the size of pores in mammalian skin, said method comprising the step of topically applying to the skin of a mammal in need of such treatment the composition of Claim 1.
21. A method of regulating the oily and/or shiny appearance of mammalian skin, said method comprising the step of topically applying to the skin of a mammal in need of such treatment the composition of Claim 1.
22. A method of preventing, retarding, and/or treating hyperpigmentation, said method comprising the step of topically applying to the skin of a mammal in need of such treatment the composition of Claim 1.
23. A method of preventing, retarding, and/or treating the appearance of fine lines and/or wrinkles in mammalian skin, said method comprising the step of topically applying to the skin of a mammal in need of such treatment the composition of Claim 1.
24. A method of preventing, retarding, and/or treating skin dryness in mammalian skin, said method comprising the step of topically applying to the skin of a mammal in need of such treatment, the composition of Claim 1.